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BOROUGH OF ABERGAVENNY



Medical Officer
OF
Health's Report

1968



S. M. R. JAMES, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Annual Report

1968

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

It is my privilege to present to you the 86th Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Abergavenny.

More than three generations ago, far-seeing and forward thinking pioneers were stressing the extent to which the health of each individual is governed by the general health of the community. As a result, we have had a gradual evolution of vast public health services which still function with varying degrees of efficiency throughout this country. Among the more important of these services that contribute to healthier living are the group we regard as the environmental services. These include the provision of decent housing, pure water supplies, adequate sewage and refuse disposal ; proper supervision of food and many amenities which help to make life pleasanter as well as healthier. Some of them have become so conveniently a part of our daily lives that we tend to forget their health value. If the water is cut off or the refuse vehicle breaks down and fails to call, our first thought is of the inconvenience and not of the danger to health. Yet, with the present degree of urbanisation illness would soon prevail in their absence.

Another outstanding feature of this century has been the steady evolution of personal health services with their roots in the Poor Law and the ceaseless activities of voluntary organisations. Since the 1946 National Health Service Act became operative, in 1948 these services have been provided by the Local Health Authorities and include :—

- Health Visiting
- Infant Welfare and care of mothers
- Cytology
- Day Nurseries
- Home Nursing
- Home Helps
- Vaccination and Immunisation
- Care and after-care services
- Mental Welfare
- Ambulance Services.
- Health Centres.

These services, together with medicine in general have progressed so far that many of the one time fatal infectious diseases are now under control. Their success has resulted in the emergence of a new pattern

of disease—the Cardio-vacular group ; all forms of Carcinoma; Diabetis mellitus; Bronchitis, etc. These diseases are characterised by slow progression and are predominantly degenerative. If not always preventable, their onset can often be delayed, but we do need to know more about their natural history.

As already mentioned, the present system of individual and community medical care has evolved slowly over the past century culminating in the National Health Service Act 1946. This Act was designed to provide a comprehensive medical service for everyone in this country and has been operating for 20 years. It is now generally felt that some of these services are more suited to the problems of the past rather than the present. Others can be improved although, in the main the quality of personal service has been satisfactory. It appears that the scene is set for a change in the general administration and organisational structure of our three-tiered system of National Health Service. We have recently been showered with a series of Commissions and Reports. One of these, the Green Paper, was produced in 1968, and after numerous meetings and discussions up and down the country, nationally and locally, one is tempted to say, “ How green was the paper in my valley !” The single-tier system portrayed in this paper has since been universally thrown into the waste-paper basket and a two-tier system suggested in its place. On the other hand, the Seebohm Report in particular, seems unfortunately to advocate the undesirable separation of social work from health services with far too little stress on health and medical problems. The Report of the Royal Commission on Local Government is still to come.

Whatever the outcome, the patient must be the key figure, and one sincerely hopes that there will be continued steady evolution and not an explosive revolution.

VITAL STATISTICS

	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Area in Acres...	2397	2397	2397	2397	2397	2297	2397	2397	2397	2397
Population ...	9030	9080	9620	9700	9710	9770	9790	9760	9670	9560
Houses (<i>including houses assessed with shops according to the Rate Book</i>)										
	3019	3019	3073	3299	3318	3356	3390	3423	3415	3409
Rateable Value	£ 102019	£ 104348	£ 107504	£ 257195	£ 266878	£ 272239	£ 277483	£ 283444	£ 285459	£ 289368
Product of 1d. Rate	... 388	405	413	1000	1040	1050	1050	1094	1096	1125
1968										

LIVE BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate ...	79	74	153
Illegitimate ...	8	2	10
	—	—	—
Total ...	87	76	163
	—	—	—

CRUDE LIVE BIRTH RATE	Borough	County	E. & W.
Per 1,000 Population ...	17.1	17.1	16.9
Comparability Factor - 1.1.			
Adjusted Live Birth Rate—17.1 x 1.10 = 18.8.		County 17.44.	
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births.		Borough 6.1.	County 6.12.
Ratio of local adjusted birth rate to national rate, 1.11.			

STILL BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate ...	4	1	5
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—
	—	—	—
Total ...	4	1	5
	—	—	—

STILL BIRTH RATE	Borough	County	E. & W.
Per 1,000 Live and Still Births	30	17.92	
Per 1,000 Population ...	0.52	0.31	14.0

DEATHS	M.	F.	Total
All causes ...	75	69	144

	Borough	County	E. & W.
Crude Death rate per 1,000 population	15.0	12.22	11.9
Comparability Factor 1.00			
Adjusted Death Rate 15.0 x 1.0	15.0	13.68	

	M.	F.	Total
Death from Cancer ...	8	7	15
Death from Lung Cancer ...	1	—	1
Death due to Pregnancy, Child Birth, Abortion—Nil.			
Maternal Mortality Rate ...	Borough	County	
Rate per 1,000 live and Still Births	0	0.65	
Infant Mortality Total 5 (<i>four males and one female</i>).			

INFANT MORTALITY RATE		Borough	County	E. & W.
Rate per 1,000 live births)	...	31	18.74	18.0
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate—first 4 weeks				
(Rate per 1,000 live births)	...	30.7	13.76	12.3
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate				
(Under 1 week)	...	24.55	11.27	10.5
Perinatal Mortality				
(Still births and infant deaths under 1 week)				
per 1,000 total live and still births	53.6	28.99	25.0	

Perinatal Mortality in Abergavenny 1960–68.

Year	Number of first Week Deaths	Number Still-Births	Perinatal Mortality Rate
1968	4	5	53.6
1967	3	3	37.5
1966	1	1	12.1
1965	1	5	31.25
1964	9	2	57.8
1963	3	2	30.6
1962	2	9	71.4
1961	5	2	46.1
1960	2	5	51.3

PERINATAL MORTALITY (1960—1968)
 Abergavenny Borough, Abergavenny Rural District and
 Monmouthshire County.

Year	Abergavenny Borough	Abergavenny Rural District	Monmouthshire
1968	53.6	7.0	28.99
1967	37.5	21.7	29.09
1966	12.1	48.95	33.87
1965	31.25	—	35.98
1964	57.8	28.6	37.25
1963	30.6	—	35.82
1962	71.4	42.55	38.85
1961	46.1	28.99	39.9
1960	51.3	56.7	42.0

Year	Population	Live Births	Deaths	Birth Rate	Death Rate
1931	8490 (Estimated)	...	137	16.10	14.01
	8608 (Census) ...	...		
1940	8407 (New Borough)	...	122	14.5	17.7
1941	8769 (New Borough)	...	130	14.6	15.39
1942	8468 (New Borough)	...	134	18.8	13.34
1943	8174 (New Borough)	...	127	15.56	13.34
1944	7931 (New Borough)	...	139	17.5	13.11
1945	8275 (New Borough)	...	141	17.0	14.5
1946	8439 (New Borough)	...	147	17.5	13.03
1947	8427 (New Borough)	...	152	18.0	13.64
1948	8532 (New Borough)	...	146	17.1	16.17
1949	8597 (New Borough)	...	134	15.6	10.9
1950	8534 (New Borough)	...	130	14.4	16.99
1951	8904 (New Borough)	...	161	18.1	17.63
1952	9058 (New Borough)	...	154	17.0	11.9
1953	9070 (New Borough)	...	140	15.4	10.26
1954	9140 (New Borough)	...	143	15.6	10.94
1955	8970 (New Borough)	...	128	14.3	11.8
1956	8910 (New Borough)	...	143	16.05	13.9
1957	8980 (New Borough)	...	131	14.89	12.49
1958	9020 (New Borough)	...	171	18.96	15.4
1959	9030 (New Borough)	...	163	18.05	13.95
1960	9080 (New Borough)	...	151	16.63	11.6
1961	9620 (New Borough)	...	150	15.59	12.27
1962	9700 (New Borough)	...	159	16.39	12.37
1963	9710 (New Borough)	...	187	18.13	14.73
1964	9770 (New Borough)	...	188	19.24	13.9
1965	9790 (New Borough)	...	187	19.1	12.56
1966	9760 (New Borough)	...	164	16.81	13.5
1967	9760 (New Borough)	...	157	16.2	13.8
1968	9560 (New Borough)	...	163	17.1	15.0

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1968 IN THE MUNICIPAL BOROUGH OF ABERGAVENNY

Cause of Death	Sex		Total	Under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 1 Year	Age in Years			
	all ages	4 Weeks	1- 5-	15- 25-	35- 45-	55- 65-	75+		
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	... M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm Stomach	... M	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm Lung Bronchus	... M	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm Breast	... M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Leukaemia	... M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms, Etc.	... M	7	—	—	—	1	—	3	1
	F	4	—	—	—	1	1	1	1
Other Endocrine, etc. Diseases	... M	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anaemias	... M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Mental Disorders	... M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases of Nervous System	... M	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	... M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Hypertensive Disease	... M	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	... M	25	—	—	—	1	3	8	5
	F	19	—	—	—	—	3	4	12
Other forms of Heart Disease	... M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
	F	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	4

CAUSES OF DEATH—*continued*

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1968 IN THE MUNICIPAL BOROUGH OF ABERGAVENNY

Cause of Death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 1 Year	Age in Years			
					5-	15- 25-	35- 45-	55- 65-
Cerebro-vascular Disease	M 9 F 19	— —	— —	— —	— —	3 1 2 5
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	M 1 F 4	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	5 12 — 4
Pneumonia	M 8 F 2	2 —	— —	— —	1 —	2 3 — 2
Bronchitis and Emphysema	M 7 F 1	— —	— —	— —	2 —	1 4 — —
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	M 1 F —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 1 — —
Other Diseases of Digestive System	...	M — F 2	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 1 — —
Hyperplasia of Prostate	M 1 F —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 1 — —
Disease of Muscular-skeletal System	...	M 1 F —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 1 — —
Congenital Anomalies	M 1 F 1	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— 1 — —
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour	M 1 F —	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— 1 — —
Other causes of Perinatal Mortality	...	M 1 F 1	1 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 1 — —
Motor Vehicle Accidents	M 3 F —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— 1 — —
All other Accidents	M 1 F —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 1 — —
Total All Causes	...	M 74 F 69	4 1	— —	1 —	2 —	2 1	18 19 10 15 40 4 24

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	Nil
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	Nil
Measles	...	...	...	15
Cerebro-spinal Meninigitis	...	...	...	Nil
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	Nil
Erysipelas	...	...	...	Nil
Diphtheria	...	...	...	Nil
Encephalitis	...	...	...	Nil
Acute Primary Pneumonia	...	...	...	Nil
Salmonella Typhimurium	...	...	...	Nil
Dysentery	...	...	...	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	1

TUBERCULOSIS

Notified : Pulmonary M 3 F 0	Non-pulmonary M 0 F 0
Deaths : Pulmonary M 0 F 1	Non-pulmonary M 0 F 0

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) (Classified according to sex and age)

Disease	Sex	Age					Total plus
		0-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25	
Diphtheria	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Menigococcal	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fever	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	Male	3	1	—	—	—	4
	Female	9	1	1	—	—	11
Whooping Cough	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Primary	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Salmonella	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhimurium	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neonatorum	Female	1	—	—	—	—	1

TUBERCULOSIS
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1968

Age		NEW CASES				DEATHS			
		Non-		Pulmonary		Non-		Pulmonary	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-9 years	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-14 years	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-19 years	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-29 years	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
30-39 years	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
40-49 years	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
50-59 years	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
60 and over	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	...	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—

VACCINATIONS AGAINST SMALL POX

Age Groups	...	NUMBER VACCINATED									
		1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	
Under 1 year	...	71	81	86	50	60	7	—	9	4	2
1-4 years	...	16	22	30	38	282	7	56	63	99	53
5-14 years	...	12	12	6	10	1332	—	—	—	7	6
15 years plus	...	17	9	15	15	2564	3	2	1	9	3
Total	...	116	124	137	113	4238	17	58	73	119	64
											75

In addition 16 children were re-vaccinated.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS										
Age Groups	...	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1964	1965	1966	1967
Under 5 years	...	160 Diph.	182 Diph.	146 Diph.	125 Diph.	70 Diph.	166 Whc.	183 Whc.	146 Whc.	115 Whc.
		158 Tetanus	182 Tetanus	154 Tetanus	126 Tetanus	70 Tetanus				
5-14 years	...	5 Diph.	— Diph.	6 Diph.	11 Diph.	13 Diph.	8 Whc.	— Whc.	6 Whc.	9 Whc.
		5 Tetanus	6 Tetanus	4 Tetanus	17 Tetanus	20 Tetanus				
Totals	...	165 Diph.	188 Diph.	152 Diph.	136 Diph.	83 Diph.	174 Whc.	183 Whc.	156 Whc.	126 Whc.
		163 Tetanus	188 Tetanus	158 Tetanus	143 Tetanus	90 Tetanus				

In addition to the above, 135 children were given "Booster" Diphtheria Prophylactic injection, 136 "Booster" Tetanus injections and 101 "Booster" Whooping Cough injections.

Yours faithfully,

S. M. JAMES, B.Sc., M.B., B.C.H., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

WATER SUPPLY

Since 1930 this town has depended for a portion of its supplementary supply on an electrically driven borehole pump, which is capable of producing 60,000 gallons per day.

In view of the adequacy of the supply from Newport Borough County mains which passes near the town and to which the town is connected and which is available on demand, it has now been considered that the maintenance of the pumping station is not necessary, and it has been discontinued.

Otherwise the supply is derived from the thirteen springs which form the Lodge and Llwyndu springs, with additional supplies as necessary from the Kibby stream and the Newport Borough County supply. The supply from the stream was used only during the months of June to October at an average of 82,000 gallons per day with a minimum of 50,000 gallons in October, rising to 190,000 gallons in July and August, thence reducing to 60,000 gallons per day in June. An amount of 15,000 gallons per day was also required in March, while the Newport main was only tapped in September to supply 110,000 gallons per day.

The Lodge and Llwynu springs respectively produced an average of 356,000 and 221,000 gallons per day, the total average being 644,000. The consumption throughout the year averaged 630,000 gallons per day, the highest recorded being 720,000 gallons and the lowest 590,000 gallons per day.

From the study of the rainfall over this year, which averaged over the twelve months 6.4 inches, it can be readily understood why the reservoir was maintained at top level with the exception of those months when it was necessary to call upon supplementary supplies.

The Borough Engineer's Department maintained vigilance over the conservation of supplies, and during the year 115 burst pipes, 201 ball valves, 198 bib taps and 11 stop taps were discovered and repaired during the year.

Samples of raw water taken from the reservoir and from bib taps on the supply indicate that effective treatment is maintained, producing a water of excellent quality and purity. Sixteen persons living in six premises are supplied from stand-pipes.

Private supplies were examined by bacteriological examination. Of ten samples taken four showed persistent contamination, and until an arrangement has been made to render the supply safe the users have been advised to sterilize water by boiling.

SWIMMING POOL

During the year the administration of the Swimming Baths was transferred to the Parks Committee, and in his annual report to this Committee the Bath's Superintendent, Mr. Dyer, stated that the inclement weather experienced throughout most of the season did not prevent all phases of aquatic sport from being carried out successfully.

Four swimming galas were held at which a few speed pool records were broken. The recent formation of the Monmouthshire and Abergavenny District Swimming Association show promise that an added interest might be shown in inter-school competitions.

Examinations under the Royal Life Saving Society were held and many bronze medallions and crosses were won, while there was 100% passes in Swimming Survival Tests.

Constant vigilance by comparitor examination meant that the water was maintained in a satisfactory condition.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The high incidence of wet weather conditions throughout the year with the rainfall fluctuating from 3.75 to 9.5 inches made the clearing of the sludge beds a difficult proposition. The position could only be relieved, in some instances, by spraying the sludge over adjacent land.

Work on the sewerage scheme continued to affect adversely the smooth operation of the works. A breach in the flood bund and the taking down of a portion of the perimeter fence allowed cattle to stray in from time to time, while the completion of the new outfall before the storm overflow was completed led to a temporary flooding of the works. The additional flow and increase of sludge bulk and screening on the completion of the system produced digestion and handling, difficulties which were overcome.

The emergency generating unit having become operational during February when it was used extensively during the alteration of the grid supply, frequent power failures during the year, therefore, had no adverse affect on the running of the works.

With the exception of a short period during June the sewage works manager, Mr. Fleet, was able to maintain a satisfactory effluent standard throughout the year.

HOUSING

IMPROVEMENTS

Eleven Standard Grants were approved during the year involving a total of £1,862. Four improvements were completed, representing £364 in grants, while work had been started in two other cases by the end of the year. £651 was paid out in grants for schemes approved in 1967 in respect of five cases.

Of nine applications for discretionary grants approved at a cost of £3,447, none had been completed, although three had been commenced by the end of the year.

SLUM CLEARANCE

The re-housing of all the families displaced by the Mill Street Slum Clearance Areas was completed by the end of the year during which period thirty houses were demolished.

The re-housing of five families from seven houses in Merthyr Road enabled the County Council to demolish this site situated on the main Abergavenny to Merthyr Road and so contributing to the improvement of the town.

RE-HOUSING

Work continued on Stage III of the Croesonnen Housing Estate a phase of the whole scheme involving the construction of 130 dwellings, all of which were recorded as having been completed during the year. Owing to some small amount of outstanding work, however, some of them were to be let during the early part of 1969. These dwellings comprised 46 three-bedroom houses, 2 two-bedroom houses, 12 one-bedroom flats and 70 two-bedroom flats ; 5 two-bedroom and 11 three-bedroom houses were completed by private enterprise.

All but one dozen flats were let, together with re-lets of 69 houses, 27 flats and 3 bungalows, which became vacant during the year.

This means that 217 families were provided with accommodation during the year by the Council.

HOUSING STATISTICS

1.	Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.	
(a)	Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for Housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	82
(b)	Number of inspections made for that purpose	200
2. (a)	Number of Dwellings (included under Sub-heading (1) above which are inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	30
(b)	Inspections made for that purpose	41

Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

Houses in Clearance Area declared under Section 42 of the Housing Act, 1957

Number of Houses demolished :—

Unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	29
Included by reason of bad arrangement	...	...	...	...	Nil
On Land acquired under Section 43 (2) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	Nil

Persons Displaced :—

From houses unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	Nil
From houses included by reason of bad arrangement	...	...	...	...	Nil
From houses on land acquired under Section 43 (2) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	Nil

Families Displaced :—

From houses unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	Nil
From houses included through bad arrangement	...	...	...	...	Nil

HOUSES NOT IN CLEARANCE AREA

Number of Houses demolished :—

As a result of Formal or Informal procedure under Section 16 or Section 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	1
Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by Medical Officer of Health	...	...	...	...	4
Houses unfit for human habitation when action has been taken under Local Act	...	...	...	...	Nil
Houses included in unfitness orders made under para. 2 of the Second Schedule in the Town and Country Planning Act, 1959	...	...	...	...	Nil

Persons displaced :—

From houses to be demolished as a result of Formal or Informal procedure under Section 16 or Section 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	2
From Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	...	...	...	...	...	5
From houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under Local Acts	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
From houses included in unfitness orders	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Families displaced :—

From houses to be demolished as a result of Formal or Informal procedure under Section 16 or 17(1) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	1
From Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	...	...	...	...	...	2
From houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under the Local Acts	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
From houses included in unfitness orders	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED

Number of Houses :—

Under Section 16 (4) 17 (1) and 35 (1) Housing Act, 1957, and Section 26 Housing Act, 1961	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Under Sections 17 (3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Persons displaced :—

From Houses to be closed :

Under Section 16 (1) 17 (1) and 35 (1) Housing Act, 1957, and Section 26 Housing Act, 1961	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Under Section 17 (3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Families displaced :—

From Houses to be closed :

Under Sections 16 (4) 17 (1) and 35 (1) Housing Act, 1957, and Sections 26 Housing Act, 1961	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Under Sections 17 (3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Parts of Buildings Closed under Section 18 Housing Act, 1957 :—

Number of Houses	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of Persons displaced	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of Families displaced	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

**UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH
DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED**

1. PROCEEDINGS UNDER HOUSING ACT :

a	No. Informal Notices served	...	...	...	Nil
b	No. Informal Notices complied with	...	...	...	Nil
c	No. Notices served under Sections 9, 10, 16, Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	Nil
d	No. remedied	...	...	...	Nil

2. PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACT :

a	Following Informal action, No. remedied	...	...	15
b	No. Statutory Notices served	...	...	11
c	No. complied with (by owner)	...	...	11
d	No. complied with by Local Authority	...	...	Nil

RENT ACT, 1957

No applications for Certificate of Disrepair were received during
the year.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

Constant surveillance was kept on all premises handling food for human consumption both on and off the premises.

Generally conditions and practices were acceptable. Some minor contraventions were dealt with informally, except that in two premises the extent of work necessary to comply with the Regulations was such that the businesses were closed.

Routine visits were made to most of the food premises in the town mainly in order to satisfy ourselves that proper practices were being carried out. In some respects conditions are not ideal although satisfactory. This is due in no small part to the age of most of the business premises in the town. This becomes manifest when old buildings are demolished and new business premises take their place. Here is an opportunity for the Architects to concentrate on the need for good hygiene standards, and this has been noticeable in more than one case in the town.

At the last, however, good food hygiene must depend on the food handler. Ideal conditions and careless handling produce as dangerous a situation as any badly constructed premises. I feel that a greater enthusiasm in maintaining a high standard of practice could only do good in this field.

It was not found necessary to take formal action, but some minor remedies were made following informal action. In this respect the co-operation of the occupiers was most commendable.

One aspect of the food trade that causes some concern lies in the nature of packaging material now used. Accumulations of cartons can be seen littering Warehouses on the rear of shop premises far in excess of those used for delivery of customers' orders. Such accumulations make proper cleansing very difficult and encourage pests of many sorts, including rodents.

Many and various have been the attempts, both by visits and letters to persuade shop and restaurant keepers, to reduce the extent of these accumulations by opening and packaging unwanted cartons. It is regrettable that there has been little response to this request, because this vast bulk imposes a strain on the refuse disposal service.

CONDEMNED FOOD

The following list of miscellaneous foods were surrendered and condemned as not fit for human consumption :

CANNED FOODS

Meats, 80 cans; Fish, 10 cans; Vegetables, 363 cans; Fruits, 79 cans;
Milk and Milk Food, 15 cans; Sauce and Pickles, 14 jars.

FROZEN FOODSTUFFS

1,486 Miscellaneous Packets.

MEAT AND OFFAL FROM SOURCES OUTSIDE THE BOROUGH AREA

Beef, 236-lbs. Pork, 26-lbs. Beef Offal, 12-lbs.

ICE-CREAM

Of the 33 premises registered with the Authority under the Food and Drugs Act, 1958, only two are used for the manufacture of Ice-Cream.

One uses the Heat Treatment, the other adopting the cold mix method.

Both the manufacturers comply with the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947.

Three samples of ice-cream were taken during the year and submitted for examination at the Monmouthshire Public Health Laboratory, and as a result of such examination all samples were Grade 1.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

As can be seen from the attached report there was very little change in the number of premises and personnel now administered by this Act.

It seems that generally speaking there has been an acceptance of most of the requirements of the Act relating to the welfare of office and shop workers.

In the case of the latter, however, one disturbing feature is in the failure of a large number of occupiers to provide adequate heating during the winter months and lack of a thermometer seems to be of little concern. There still seems to be an erroneous opinion that because members of the public are admitted to a premises, these premises are exempt from the need to maintain a minimum heating standard, and it is found to be most difficult to persuade these offending occupiers otherwise.

During the year one minor accident was reported which did not require any particular investigation.

RODENT CONTROL

Once again it is possible to be able to report that the incidence of rats and other rodents in the town has been at a minimum level due to the vigilance which has been displayed by the Rodent Operator who has continually maintained a close watch on those areas liable to re-infestation.

The main source of any potential build-up is the Refuse Tip, and the co-operation of the Borough Engineer's Department responsible for refuse collection is vital if any large scale influx into the town is to be avoided.

It is fortunate that we were not troubled with any poison resistant rats. In this connection every person, particularly farmers, who lay bait should be absolutely sure that a sufficient quantity is put down to fully satisfy all rats which are feeding from the bait. This will ensure that no rat has a sub-lethal dose from which he is likely to recover and so develop an immunity.

The continued co-operation of the public is requested to ensure that any incidence of infestation is reported to the Department.

Statistically the work of the Rodent Operator is hereby appended, and in this respect all reference to treatments referred to the use of Warfarin. No other poison is used.

DESTRUCTION OF RATS IN SEWERS

Annual Treatment 29th April to 17th May, 1968.

Total number of manholes in foul and connected system	...	306
Number baited ...	...	158
Number showing takes of bait ...	...	16

Annual Treatment 7th October to 18th October, 1968

Total number of manholes in foul and connected system	...	306
Number baited ...	...	160
Number showing takes of bait ...	...	20

In this treatment an anti-coagulant poison was used.

SURFACE INFESTATIONS

Unless a quick kill was urgently required, when zinc phosphide is used, surface infestations were controlled with Warfarin.

The following is a summary of the work carried out :—

Total number of properties in this area	...	...	4,206
All other including business properties	...	...	186

INSPECTIONS

Number of Local Authority properties inspected	...	...	22
Number of Business properties inspected	...	...	112
Number of Private dwellings inspected	...	...	368
Number of Agricultural properties inspected	...	...	3
Other types of premises inspected	...	...	44
Total inspections, including re-inspections	...	...	1,396
Total number found to be infested :—			
By Rats	...	...	95
By Mice	...	...	15
Total number of treatments carried out by Rodent Operator	...	...	110
Number of re-treatments	...	...	17
Total number of treatments, including re-treatments	...	...	127

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1967

The following represents the distribution of trades in the Borough :

		Number of Factories	Mechanical Power used	With Power not used
Agricultural Machinery Repairs	...	2	2	0
Buildings and Joinery	...	9	9	0
Bakery	...	2	2	0
Blacksmiths	...	1	1	0
Boot and Shoe Repair	...	4	4	0
Cellulose Spraying	...	6	6	0
Clock and Watch Repair	...	3	3	0
Concrete Products	...	1	1	0
Dry Cleaners	...	1	1	0
Egg Grading	...	1	1	0
Electrical Repairs (including radio)	...	5	0	5
Firewood	...	1	1	0
Fish Friers	...	4	4	0
Florists	...	4	0	4
Gas Undertaking	...	1	1	0
Ice-Cream	...	2	2	0
Ironworks and Engineers	...	2	2	0
Meat—small goods	...	5	5	0
Mineral waters	...	1	1	0
Monumental Masonery	...	1	1	0
Motor Repairs	...	11	11	0

			Number of Factories	Mechanical Power used	With Power not used
Printing	2	2
Paper Cutting and Packing	1	1
Slaughterhouses	1	1
Sugar Confectionery	1	1
Textile Products	3	3
Telephone Repairs	1	1
Tent Repairs	1	0
Tinsmiths	1	0
Upholstery and French Polishing	1	0
Welding	3	3
Wool Staplers	1	0

OUTWORKERS—During 1968 four outworkers were listed, concerned with : Wearing apparel (3); Retail drapery (1).

Thirty-one inspections were carried out, and the following is a statement of cases from which defects were found :—

NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Referred to		By H.M.		
	Found	Remedied	H.M. Insp.	Inspector	Prose'n's
Want of Cleanliness	2	2	0	1	0
Overcrowding	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable Temperature	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate Ventilation	0	0	0	0	0
Ineffective Floor and Drainage	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Convenience—					
(a) Insufficient	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	0	1	0	1	0
(c) Not separate for sexes	0	0	0	0	0

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933-1954

In accordance with the above Acts the Council have issued Licences to six persons authorising them to act as Slaughtermen.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE AND MEAT INSPECTION

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or Part

	Cattle exl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Slaughtered ...	1262	172	106	10966	3055	—
Number Inspected	1262	172	106	10966	3055	—
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole Carcasses condemned	3	6	3	43	3	—
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned...	353	113	2	649	117	—
Percentage of the number inspected	28.2	69.2	4.7	6.3	2.4	—
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcase condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	—	—	—	—	50	—
Percentage of the number inspected	—	—	—	—	1.0	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised totally and condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Weight of meat and offal condemned as a result of Tubercular Infections :—

Carcase meat 425-lbs.
Offal 330-lbs.

Weight of meat and offal condemned as a result of disease and conditions other than Tuberculosis :—

Carcase meat	...	...	7103-lbs.
Offal			7883-lbs.

Total weight of meat and offal condemned ... 15741-lbs.

RAINFALL, 1968

Diameter of Funnel, 5-inches.

Situation : Bailey Park.

<i>Month</i>				<i>Total Depth inches</i>
January	...	...	...	4.0
February	...	...	...	6.25
March	...	...	...	4.0
April	...	...	...	7.25
May	...	...	...	5.5
June	...	...	...	5.5
July	...	...	...	7.5
August	...	...	...	3.75
September	...	...	...	9.5
October	...	...	...	9.0
November	...	...	...	6.5
December	...	...	...	8.5
<hr/>			Total	77.25

I am-

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

ROGER J. HOWELLS.

Public Health Inspector.

